REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 14. Claims 1-27 are all the claims pending in the application. In response to the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims define patentable subject matter.

Claims 1-6, 8, 14-18, 20, 26, and 27 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rafii et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,512,838, hereafter "Rafii"). Clams 7, 9-11, 19, and 21-23 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rafii in view of Chung (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0104869). Claims 12, 13, 24, and 25 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rafii in view of Ng et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0193478, hereafter "Ng"). Applicant respectfully traverses the prior art rejections.

Amended claim 1 reads in part:

> a hand position and finger order determination unit that determines which button of a plurality of buttons of the virtual keyboard is stroked and which fingers are used to stroke the stroked button;

> a key information storage unit that stores key values respectively mapped to a predetermined button of the plurality of buttons of the virtual keyboard and fingers used to stroke the predetermined button; and

> a key determination unit that finds a key value by matching the stroked button and the fingers used to stroke the stroked button with the predefined button and fingers mapped in the key information storage unit.

Applicant respectfully submits that these features of the claim are neither taught nor suggested by the cited reference.

Rafii discloses building a template by mapping positions of the user's fingers to specific

keyboard keys at a rest position of the user (column 20, lines 1-8). For instance, if when the user

is at rest, the user's left fingers touch the "A", "S", "D", and "F" keys, and the user's right

fingers touch the "J", "K", "L", and ":" keys, the routing 285 would move or relocate the virtual

keyboard, so that these keys are adjacent to the user's fingers when the user is at rest. When the

user's fingers are placed in a typing position (and prior to any selection of a key), the user's

fingers are mapped to the template and recalibrated to the keys of the virtual keyboard before a

typing session starts (column 20, lines 27-33).

However, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no teaching or suggestion in

Rafiq or any of the other cited references of "a hand position and finger order

determination unit that determines which button of a plurality of buttons of the virtual

keyboard is stroked and which fingers are used to stroke the stroked button; a key

information storage unit that stores key values respectively mapped to a predetermined

button of the plurality of buttons of the virtual keyboard and fingers used to stroke the

predetermined button; and a key determination unit that finds a key value by matching

the stroked button and the fingers used to stroke the stroked button with the predefined

button and fingers mapped in the key information storage unit", as recited in independent

claim 1 and analogously recited in independent claim 14.

Applicant notes that the Examiner did not address Applicant's arguments

presented in the previous Amendment with respect to independent claims 26 and 27, that

there is no teaching or suggestion in Rafii of "mapping keys onto virtual buttons of a

virtual keyboard that are selected by a user's fingers upon which are individually

mounted a plurality of sensors", or the feature "determining the number of sensors;

allocating key values according to the number of sensors; and mapping the allocated key

values onto a first virtual button" as recited in claim 26 and analogously recited in claim

27.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 14, 26,

and 27 should be allowable because the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the

features of the claims. Claims 2-13 and 15-25 should also be allowable at least by virtue

of their dependency on independent claims 1 and 14.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed

to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC   Mark E. Wallerson
Telephone: (202) 293-7060   Registration No. 59,043
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860
    WASHINGTON OFFICE
    23373
    CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 17, 2007